



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546  
Phone: (860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 1106-N-61-T

RE: APPLICATION OF CT TAXI CAB TO OPERATE TWO (2) MOTOR VEHICLES IN TAXICAB  
SERVICE WITHIN AND TO AND FROM NEW HAVEN.

FINAL DECISION

May 5, 2015

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Applicant's Proposal

By application filed on June 22, 2011, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-97 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, CT Taxi Cab (hereinafter "applicant") with a mailing address of 245 Peck Avenue, West Haven, Connecticut 06516 seeks authorization to operate two (2) motor vehicles in taxicab service within and to and from the town of New Haven.

### B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Section 13b-97(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, a public hearing on this application was held at the Department of Transportation in Newington, Connecticut on April 28, 2015.

Notice of the application and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the applicant and to such other parties as required by Section 13b-97(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. Legal notice to the public was given by publication on the department's website.

The hearing on this matter was conducted by a hearing officer, designated by the Commissioner of Transportation, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-17.

### C. Appearances

Mr. Patricio Calletano appeared on behalf of the applicant. The applicant was represented by Attorney Eric Emanuelson with a mailing address is 1575 Boston Road, Building B, Guilford, Connecticut 06437.

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The applicant seeks to operate two (2) taxicabs within and to and from New Haven.
2. The applicant has been a taxicab driver for the past five years and is currently driving for AC Express Taxi.
3. The applicant has four taxicab drivers who want to drive for the company. The company structure will be 12 hour shifts and will operate the required 24 hours a day. The applicant will utilize employees instead of independent contractors. The records of the company will be held
4. William Martin testified as a character witness for Mr. Calletano. Mr. Calletano is reliable, hardworking and will keep his cars clean.
5. Agnes Bidon is a nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital. The applicant drives her daughter to music school in New Haven in addition to driving Ms Bidon to and from work 3 times a week. Her main complaints with the other taxicab services she has used are that they use dirty and smelly cars, the drivers

are hard to understand and always talking on their cell phones, and drivers taking a route other than the one that she directed. As part of her job, she calls taxicabs for patients and often sees them waiting for long periods of time for a ride.

6. Dina Estacio is a nurse in New Haven. Her husband uses the applicant for rides to dialysis treatments several times a week because his treatments conflict with her work schedule. Because of his fragile condition, the applicant must physically walk her husband into and out of the clinic and take him to and from the house to the car. She also reports watching her patients waiting extensive period to be picked up from the clinic where she works after taxis have been called. On one occasion, she was told that taxicab had arrived and left but she knows that it never came.

7 Enrique Olavarria is a parking enforcement officer in New Haven. His past experience with local taxicabs has been that they are untimely and often not in good condition. Although he currently drives, his girlfriend uses the applicant several times a week and is very satisfied with his service.

8. Yamila Reinso is a student and mother living in West Haven. She does not drive. She had negative experiences using taxicabs until she found the applicant. At this point, she only trusts the applicant to drive her family. There are times when she can't hire the applicant because he is busy. She trusts her eight year old child with the applicant. The applicant is always helpful to her in loading and unloading the car of her personal possessions.

9. Claudia Toborda is a housekeeper from West Haven. She uses the applicant's services and her fourteen year old daughter does as well. He is always on time and he drives a very neat and clean car. She only wants to utilize the applicant's services.

10. Alfonso Campoverde is the owner of AC Express Taxi for which the applicant is a driver. AC Express operates two taxicabs in the New Haven area. Mr. Calletano is a very good driver and employee. Mr. Campoverde wants to work in conjunction with the applicant to be able to farm out the excess taxicab work he has. Since his taxi business is increasing, he believes there is definitely room for two additional taxicabs in New Haven. He would like to start a coalition of small taxicab companies in order to support to each other.

11. Steven Calletano, the applicant's son who is a student, also testified in support of the application. His father keeps his cars in top condition because of his mechanical abilities. He is also very dedicated to customer service.

12. The applicant has a cash balance of \$26,214 in the bank.

13. The applicant's six months of starting costs include expenses of \$1,400 to equip the two taxicabs, insurance costs of \$8,640, cell phone costs of \$300 in addition to six months of monthly fees of \$1,026, vehicle repairs of \$3,060, marketing costs of \$135 and property tax of \$1620.

14. The applicant already owns a 2005 Crown Victoria and expects to purchase a 2007 at the cost of \$4,250, which will be a cash purchase.

15. No opposition was presented to this application.

### III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over common carriers, which include each person, association, limited liability company or corporation owning or operating a taxicab in the State of Connecticut in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended. The Department is authorized to prescribe regulations with respect to fares, service, operation and equipment, as it deems necessary for the convenience, protection and safety of the passengers and the public.

Pursuant to Section 13b-97(a), as amended, any person who applies for authority to operate a taxicab shall obtain from the Department a certificate of public convenience and necessity certifying that the public's convenience and necessity requires the operation of a taxicab or taxicabs for the transportation of passengers. No certificate shall be issued unless the department finds that the person is suitable to operate a taxicab service. In so doing, the department must take into consideration any convictions of the applicant under federal, state or local laws relative to safety, motor vehicle or criminal violations, the number of taxicabs to be operated under the certificate, the adequacy of the applicant's financial resources to operate the service, the adequacy of insurance coverage and safety equipment and the availability of qualified operators.

With regard to suitability, the applicant submitted State Police Bureau of Identification Criminal History Form for Patricio Calletano which showed no criminal convictions. He also has no driving violations. The applicant is familiar with the rules and regulations governing taxicab service from working as a driver for the past five years and will do what is necessary to follow the rules and regulations of the department. Therefore, he has proven his suitability to operate the proposed service.

As far as the applicant's financial suitability is concerned, the applicant has a cash balance of \$26,214 in the bank. The applicant's six months starting costs include expenses of \$1,400 to equip the taxicabs, insurance costs of \$8,640, cell phone costs of \$300 plus six months of monthly fees of \$1,026, vehicle repairs of \$3,060, marketing costs of \$135 and property taxes of \$1620. The applicant already owns a 2005 Crown Victoria and expects to purchase a 2007 at the cost of \$4,250, which will be a cash purchase. Based on the evidence provided, the applicant has shown the requisite financial ability to have this application granted.

The applicant testified that he has four individuals whom are current taxi drivers who he can employ to drive for his company. He will also be a driver. The applicant only plans to operate two vehicles so this staffing should be sufficient for the proposed operation.

The applicant presented numerous witnesses who had complaints about the local taxicab service. These customers of the applicant are very dedicated to using his service and many have recommended him to their friends and family. As a result, the applicant already has an established clientele in the New Haven area. In addition, the applicant received strong support for the owner of the taxicab company for which he currently drives. The two men plan to work together to handle the overflow work that each will receive. Based upon the strong community support, the applicant has proven that public convenience and necessity requires a grant of this application.

### IV. CONCLUSION

Therefore, based upon the above and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as

amended, the application of CT Taxi Cab is hereby granted and Certificate Number 1232 is hereby issued to CT Taxi Cab as follows:

CERTIFICATE NUMBER 1232  
FOR THE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN TAXICAB SERVICE

CT Taxi Cab is hereby permitted and authorized to operate two (2) motor vehicles in taxicab service within and to and from New Haven to all points in Connecticut.

RESTRICTIONS

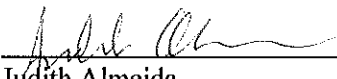
**The applicant shall register the two vehicles granted under this decision within thirty (30) days from the date of this decision.**

This certificate may not be sold or transferred until it has been operational, i.e., its vehicles registered with taxicab plates thereunder, for not less than twenty-four (24) consecutive months. This certificate is transferable only with the approval of the department.

This certificate shall remain in effect until it is amended, suspended, or revoked by the department. Failure of the certificate holder to maintain proper insurance and/or to comply with all pertinent motor vehicle laws and other State statutes and/or the rules, regulations and orders of the department, as this department may from time to time prescribe, shall be considered sufficient cause to amend, suspend or revoke this certificate.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

  
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Judith Almeida  
Staff Attorney III  
Administrative Law Unit  
Bureau of Finance and Administration